(b) whether any steps have been taken by Government to increase foodgrains production in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIHUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a)The production of foodgrains in Madhya Pradesh during 2000-01 was estimated at 89.30 lakh tonnes and it is expected to be 130.64 lakh tonnes during 2001-2002 as per fourth advance estimates on 27.06.2002.

(b) and (c)To improve the production of agricultural commodities in the country, the Government have launched various initiatives such as promotion of watershed development programmes, emphasis on developing and promoting new technologies, measures for increasing availability of agricultural credit, market Information network and National Agriculture Insurance Scheme etc. Besides, the Government also encourage farmers to increase production through price policy which includes implementation of Minimum Support Price, procurement by public agencies. Apart from these, the Government have also switched over from the conventional schematic approach to Macro-Management Mode from November, 2000 for providing assistance to the States. The Macco-Management Scheme integrates 27 schemes into one for supplementing and complementing the efforts of State Governments through work plans. This gives flexibility to States to address their respective specific problems faced by them depending on local requirements, avoid overlapping in the contents of different schemes and aim at all-round development of agriculture.

Groundnut seeds for farmers in AP

2511. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether discontent is brewing among farmers in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh, even as the sale of subsidised groundnut seed grains;

(b) if so, whether the farmers have expressed resentment over inadequate quantities being supplied;

(c) whether each farmer is being given only 30-kg. bags which is not sufficient to be sown even in one-and-a-half acre; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to provide sufficient groundnut seeds to farmers, as required by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYANYADAV): (a) to (d) As per the report of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, due to non-receipt of normal rains in the State of Andhra Pradesh including Anantapur district, the farmers who have already procured the required quantity of groundnut seeds, could not take-up sowing.

In the beginning, the farmers have been supplied a maximum of 90 kg groundnut seed per farmer. Later on, it has been increased to 150 kg per farmer, on subsidy which is sufficient to cover one ha. area.

As per the requirement the State Government decided & arranged to supply 2,50,000 qtls. groundnut seed in Anantapur district. So far 1,84,509 qtls. of seed was distributed on subsidy @ Rs.400/- per qtls. through Andhra Pradesh State Seed Development Corporation Ltd. and Andhra Pradesh Cooperative Oilseeds Growers' Federation Ltd. under Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) during Kharif 2002.

Availability of corns

2512. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the livestock industry has turned down Government's offer to provide three lac tonnes of wheat to overcome the shortage of corn;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to allow increased import of corns under tariff quota regime for the poultry feed sector;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures to be adopted for availability of more corns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Representatives of the Poultry Industry had expressed the view that the